

Why is change needed at King Kekaulike High School?

Many Kekaulike students perform adequately or excel, but recent student data reveals serious concerns.

- Some data reflect both national and state trends. As a class, ninth graders earn the lowest average GPA of the four grade levels; many ninth graders fail two courses.
- Students entering local community college require remediation in English and math.
- On the Hawai'i State Assessment (HSA), disadvantaged tenth graders scored low in reading and math.

Research suggests that a smaller learning environment boosts student achievement and positively affects behavior and attitudes.

Kekaulike's Smaller Learning Communities will allow the school to aggressively address these issues.



KING KEKAULIKE HIGH SCHOOL

Vision

Majestically
on the slopes of Haleakala,
King Kekaulike High School
strives in unity for excellence
in living, learning, and leading,
to enrich, empower, and elevate
our school, our community,
and our world.

Motto

Kulia I Ka Nu'u
Strive to reach the summit

The Na Ali'i 3 R's

Respect for Self and Others
Rigor in Learning
Relevance in Learning

King Kekaulike High School
Department of Education, State of Hawai'i
March 2006

Smaller
Learning
Communities

King Kekaulike High
School
121 Kula Highway
Pukalani, HI 96768
808-573-8710

What is a Smaller Learning Community?

In a Smaller Learning Community (SLC), a group of teachers and other adults knows well the needs, interests and aspirations of each student. Teachers work collaboratively to integrate content areas and personalize learning. Each student's progress is closely monitored. Academic and other supports are provided to ensure achievement and success.

Thirteen Hawai'i high schools are implementing SLCs.

In the Summer of 2005, Kalāheo, Kahuku and King Kekaulike High Schools received a \$2.4 million federal grant to establish SLCs over a five year period.

Successful Smaller Learning Communities:

- promote greater equity in achievement,
- decrease the dropout rate,
- improve school attendance and participation in activities,
- are safe, productive and more personal so that students feel less alienated, more nurtured and connected with caring adults.

What will SLCs look like at Kekaulike?

Kekaulike's Smaller Learning Communities will be grade level "houses," established on the following timeline:

2005-2006 Form Ninth and Tenth Grade Houses

Randomly assigned to one of two houses in each grade level, ninth and tenth graders will take English, Science, Social Studies, and Math together and share the same teachers. The teaching team will develop an instructional program to integrate academic content, develop a sense of community and personalize the learning environment.

2006-2007 Continue Ninth and Tenth Grade Houses; Form Career Pathways for Eleventh and Twelfth Grades

Continuing ninth and tenth grade houses will integrate English, Science, Social Studies, and Math as described above. Eleventh and twelfth grade students will pursue interests and possible careers by enrolling in a Career Pathway such as the existing Arts and Communications Pathway.

2007-2008 Continue Ninth and Tenth Grade Houses; Continue Career Pathways for Eleventh and Twelfth Grades

Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses will continue with an open enrollment process.

How will students benefit?

King Kekaulike High School's Smaller Learning Communities will

- be based on the Hawai'i Content and Performance Standards and better prepare students for the Hawai'i State Assessment;
- provide rigorous, relevant and meaningful curriculum;
- personalize learning through mentoring and other relationships;
- integrate core subjects and include projects that culminate in a presentation with a written component, product, and authentic audience;
- implement common student expectations in areas such as homework, grades, and behavior;
- extend learning into the workplace and community;
- provide more transition support for freshmen.

How can you help?

We welcome volunteers, donations of resources, and attendance at school events. Parents, alumni and others are invited to serve on advisory committees for Career Pathways and to provide guidance, resources, job shadowing or internships.